

Lesson 10

Using Details to Support Inferences in Literary Texts



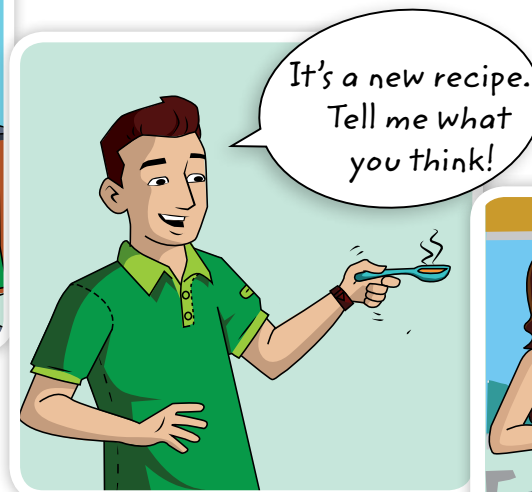
Learning Target

Quoting directly from a text will help you support inferences about it and better understand the text.

- **Read** In a literary text, the author may state something directly. But authors aren't always direct. Sometimes we must infer what they mean. Making an **inference** means combining what we read with what we know from our experience.

Always support an inference with **evidence**. **Quotes** from a text are a strong form of evidence.

In the comic strip, circle anything that helps you infer what the woman thinks about the man's new recipe.



► **Think** What do you know about making inferences? Use the organizer below to help you develop and support an inference about how the new recipe tastes.

What's in the Image (Evidence)	What I Know (Experience)	My Inference

- **Talk** Share your organizer with a partner.
- Did you both make the same inference?
 - Did you both use the same information from the comic strip?
 - Based on details in the comic strip, what can you infer will happen next?



Academic Talk

Use these words to talk about the text.

- **inference**
- **evidence**
- **quotes**

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

by Chris Bartlett



1 On New Year's Day, the mysterious Green Knight rode into the heart of King Arthur's castle and issued a challenge to the Knights of the Round Table. He would grant any knight a single stroke with his green axe against his neck—but only if that knight would return the favor, one year and one day later.

2 King Arthur began to accept the challenge, but Sir Gawain offered to take his king's place. Gawain then took up the enormous green axe and, with a mighty swing, sliced off the Green Knight's head. *Surely that will be the end of it*, Gawain thought. *Surely my king is now safe*.

3 But the Green Knight, still very much alive, stood and picked up his own head. He reminded Gawain that they had an appointment in one year and a day, and he rode quickly away on his horse.

4 Gawain's fellow knights gathered around him. "We are sorry we let you take on this burden," they said. "We will not let you face the Green Knight alone."

5 But Gawain replied, "This is no burden, and I am not sorry. I do what I do for my king and for my honor. I will face the Green Knight alone, and I will do so with all good cheer."

6 One year and one day later, Gawain met the Green Knight as he had promised. He lay aside his sword, shield, and helmet, and then strode toward the Green Knight. Gawain bent low to receive the blow from the axe. At the stroke of the axe, Gawain flinched.

7 "Are you afraid?" asked the Green Knight.

8 "Get on with the business," Gawain snapped. Again, the Green Knight raised his axe. He took aim and swung, but Gawain was unharmed.

9 *Surely that will not be the end of it*, Gawain thought, as he readied himself again. But the Green Knight presented Gawain with his great axe, bowed low to the ground, and rode away.

Close Reader Habits

What kind of person does Sir Gawain seem to be? As you reread, **underline** any details that suggest what sort of person he is.



Explore

Based on what Sir Gawain says and does, what inferences can you make about him?

Look for what Sir Gawain says, thinks, and does. Such details will support your inferences.

Think

- 1 Complete this organizer with quotes and details from the text and what you already know. Such evidence will help you support your inferences.

What's in the Text (Evidence)	What I Know (Experience)	My Inferences

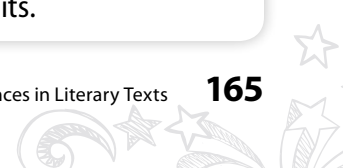
Talk

- 2 Discuss what Sir Gawain is like. Why do you think he offers to take King Arthur's place? What does Gawain think will happen when he meets the Green Knight again? Add or change quotes or details in your organizer as necessary.

 **Write**

- 3 **Short Response** What inferences can you make about the kind of person Sir Gawain is? Support your answer with quotes and details from the story and your organizer. Use the space provided on page 168 to write your answer.

HINT Start by stating at least one of Gawain's traits. Then quote parts of the story that show those traits.



Sir Gawain had a younger brother named Gareth. Gareth also wanted to be a knight, but his mother, fearing for his safety, made him promise to serve only as a kitchen-boy in Arthur's palace.

From

The Story of Sir Gareth & Lynette

by Maude L. Radford

1 Gareth served in the kitchen of the king only one month, for his mother became sorry for the promise she had asked of him, and sent armor for him to Arthur's Court, with a letter to the king telling who the youth was. With great joy Gareth then went to Arthur and said, "My lord, I can fight as well as my brother Gawain. At home we have proved it. Then make me a knight, in secret, for I do not want the other knights to know my name. Make me a knight, and give me permission to right the first wrong that we hear of."

2 The king said gravely, "You know all that my knights must promise?"

3 "Yes, my lord Arthur. I am willing to promise all."

4 "I will make you my knight in secret, since you wish it," Arthur said. . . .

Then Gareth was secretly made a knight.

5 That same day a beautiful young damsel came into Arthur's hall. She had cheeks as pink as apple blossoms, and very sharp eyes.

6 "Who are you, damsel?" asked the king, "and what do you need?"

7 "My name is Lynette," she said, "and I am of noble blood. I need a knight to fight for my sister Lyonors, a lady, also noble, rich, and most beautiful."

8 "Why must she have a knight?" questioned Arthur.

9 "My Lord King, she lives in Castle Perilous. Around this castle a river circles three times, and there are three passing-places, one over each circle of the river. Three knights, who are brothers, keep a constant guard over these passing-places. A fourth knight, also a brother, clad in black armor, stands guard in front of my sister's castle. We have never seen this knight's face or heard his voice, but his brothers tell us he is the most powerful and daring knight in the world. All these four keep my sister a prisoner."

Close Reader Habits

What inference can you make about what will happen later in the story? Reread the story.

Underline details that support your inference.



Read carefully to figure out why Gareth acts as he does. Why does he want to be a knight? What does he say he will do if he becomes one?

Think Use what you learned from reading the legend to answer the following questions.

- 1** This question has two parts. Answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Which inference about Gareth is **best** supported by the text?

- A** Gareth likes working in the kitchen.
- B** Gareth is eager to prove himself to the king.
- C** Gareth is angry about the promise he made to his mother.
- D** Gareth wants to prove that he is a better knight than his brother.

Part B

What evidence **best** supports your answer in Part A? Select **two** options.

- A** "Make me a knight, and give me permission to right the first wrong that we hear of." (paragraph 1)
- B** "Then make me a knight, in secret, for I do not want the other knights to know my name." (paragraph 1)
- C** "Yes, my lord Arthur. I am willing to promise all." (paragraph 3)
- D** "I will make you my knight in secret, since you wish it," Arthur said." (paragraph 4)
- E** "Who are you, damsel?" asked the king, "and what do you need?" (paragraph 6)
- F** "I need a knight to fight for my sister Lyonors, a lady, also noble, rich, and most beautiful." (paragraph 7)

Talk

- 2** The passage is part of a longer story. What do you think Gareth will do later in the story? Why do you think this? Use the organizer on page 169 to collect evidence from the story and record your ideas.

Write

- 3 Short Response** Gareth will fight one or more of the brothers near Castle Perilous. Use evidence from the text and your organizer to support this inference. Use the space provided on page 169 to write your answer.

HINT After writing, ask yourself: How well does my evidence support the inference?



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 165.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

HINT Start by stating at least one of Gawain's traits. Then quote parts of the story that show those traits.

3 Short Response What inferences can you make about the kind of person Sir Gawain is? Support your answer with quotes and details from the story and your organizer.



Don't forget to check your writing.

Check Your Writing

- Did you read the prompt carefully?
- Did you put the prompt in your own words?
- Did you use the best evidence from the text to support your ideas?
- Are your ideas clearly organized?
- Did you write in clear and complete sentences?
- Did you check your spelling and punctuation?

The Story of Sir Gareth & Lynette

2 Use the organizer below to gather your ideas and evidence.

What's in the Text (Evidence)	What I Know (Experience)	My Inference



Write Use the space below to write your answer to the question on page 167.

3 Short Response Gareth will fight one or more of the brothers near Castle Perilous. Use evidence from the text and your organizer to support this inference.

HINT After writing, ask yourself: How well does my evidence support the inference?

Read

from **Arthur**
and the **Sword**

by Sara Cone Bryant


WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond these words to figure out what they mean.

- **disputed**
- **appointed**
- **allegiance**

- 1 Once there was a great king in Britain named Uther, and when he died the other kings and princes disputed over the kingdom, each wanting it for himself. . . .
- 2 When the kings and princes could not be kept in check any longer, and something had to be done to determine who was to be king, Merlin made the Archbishop of Canterbury send for all of them to come to London. It was Christmas time, and in the great cathedral a solemn service was held, and prayer was made that some sign should be given to show who was the rightful king. When the service was over, there appeared a strange stone in the churchyard, against the high altar. It was a great white stone, like marble, with something sunk in it that looked like a steel anvil; and in the anvil was driven a great glistening sword. The sword had letters of gold written on it, which read: "Whoso pulleth out this sword of this stone and anvil is rightwise king born of all England." . . .
- 3 Many of the knights tried to pull the sword from the stone, hoping to be king. But no one could move it a hair's breadth. . . .
- 4 Then they set a guard of ten knights to keep the stone, and the archbishop appointed a day when all should come together to try at the stone—kings from far and near. In the meantime, splendid jousts were held outside London, and both knights and commons were bidden.

5 Sir Ector came up to the jousts, with others, and with him rode Kay and Arthur. Kay had been made a knight at Allhallowmas¹, and when he found there was to be so fine a joust he wanted a sword to join it. But he had left his sword behind where his father and he had slept the night before. So he asked young Arthur to ride for it.

6 “I will well,” said Arthur, and rode back for it. But when he came to the castle, the lady and all her household were at the jousting, and there was none to let him in.

7 Arthur said to himself, “My brother Sir Kay shall not be without a sword this day.” And he remembered the sword he had seen in the churchyard. “I will ride to the churchyard,” he said, “and take that sword with me.” So he rode into the churchyard, tied his horse to the stile, and went up to the stone. The guards were away to the tourney, and the sword was there, alone.

8 Going up to the stone, young Arthur took the great sword by the hilt, and lightly and fiercely he drew it out of the anvil.

9 Then he rode straight to Sir Kay and gave it to him.



¹ **Allhallowmas:** All Saints Day, November 1

10 Sir Kay knew instantly that it was the sword of the stone, and he rode off at once to his father and said, “Sir, lo, here is the sword of the stone; I must be king of the land.” But Sir Ector asked him where he got the sword. And when Sir Kay said, “From my brother,” he asked Arthur how he got it. When Arthur told him, Sir Ector bowed his head before him. “Now I understand ye must be king of this land,” he said to Arthur.

11 “Why me?” said Arthur.

12 “For God will have it so,” said Ector. “Never man should have drawn out this sword but he that shall be rightwise king of this land. Now let me see whether ye can put the sword as it was in the stone, and pull it out again.”

13 Straightway Arthur put the sword back.

14 Then Sir Ector tried to pull it out, and after him Sir Kay; but neither could stir it. Then Arthur pulled it out. Thereupon, Sir Ector and Sir Kay kneeled upon the ground before him. . . .

15 So Arthur became king of Britain, and all gave him allegiance.



Think Use what you learned from reading the legend to answer the following questions.

- 1** This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Which inference about Arthur is supported by the text?

- A** Arthur believes himself to be rightful king from an early age.
- B** Arthur is one of ten chosen to guard the stone.
- C** Arthur is a loyal and resourceful person.
- D** Arthur will face problems because others want to be king.

Part B

Underline **two** sentences in this paragraph that support the answer to Part A.

Arthur said to himself, "My brother Sir Kay shall not be without a sword this day." And he remembered the sword he had seen in the churchyard. "I will ride to the churchyard," he said, "and take that sword with me." So he rode into the churchyard, tied his horse to the stile, and went up to the stone. The guards were away to the tourney, and the sword was there, alone.

- 2** Read this sentence from paragraph 4.

In the meantime, splendid jousts were held outside London, and both knights and commons were bidden.

Which dictionary entry **best** defines jousts?

- A** contests in which knights fight common people
- B** parties held at the palace to celebrate the dead king
- C** events during which new kings are crowned
- D** competitions in which knights fight each other on horses

- 3** Which sentences from the text **best** support the inference that Britain needed a peaceful way of finding a new king to replace Uther? Select **two** options.
- A** “Once there was a great king in Britain named Uther, and when he died the other kings and princes disputed over the kingdom, each wanting it for himself. . . .” (paragraph 1)
 - B** “It was Christmas time, and in the great cathedral a solemn service was held, and prayer was made that some sign should be given to show who was the rightful king.” (paragraph 2)
 - C** “When the service was over, there appeared a strange stone in the churchyard, against the high altar.” (paragraph 2)
 - D** “It was a great white stone, like marble, with something sunk in it that looked like a steel anvil; and in the anvil was driven a great glistening sword.” (paragraph 2)
 - E** “In the meantime, splendid jousts were held outside London, and both knights and commons were bidden.” (paragraph 4)
 - F** “So he rode into the churchyard, tied his horse to the stile, and went up to the stone.” (paragraph 7)

- 4** Read this sentence and the directions that follow.

When Arthur decides to take the sword from the stone, he has not yet heard about the message that was written on it.

Which sentence from the text **best** supports this inference?

- A** “Many of the knights tried to pull the sword from the stone, hoping to be king.” (paragraph 3)
- B** “Arthur said to himself, ‘My brother Sir Kay shall not be without a sword this day.’” (paragraph 7)
- C** “‘Why me?’ said Arthur.” (paragraph 11)
- D** “So Arthur became king of Britain, and all gave him allegiance.” (paragraph 15)

**Write**

- 5 Short Response** In this story, Sir Kay can be described as a young knight with little experience. Write a paragraph supporting this statement. Use at least **two** details from the story to support your answer.

**Learning Target**

In this lesson, you used quotes to support inferences about literary texts. Explain how this activity will help you better understand other literary texts you read.
